

PRESS RELEASE

July 24, 2006

DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO TRANSPORTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

RE: UNITED STATES v. RICHARD PETIX

Terrance P. Flynn, United States Attorney for the Western District of New York, announced today that Richard Petix, age 21, of 73 Virginia Manor Road, Rochester, New York, pled guilty in front of the Honorable Charles J. Siragusa, United States District Court Judge, to Count One of an indictment charging Petix with receiving child pornography, which carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years imprisonment and a maximum of 20 years imprisonment, and a \$250,000 fine.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard A. Resnick, who handled the case, stated that from January 1, 2005, through April 1, 2005, the defendant possessed on his computer over 1000 child pornography images. Many of the images were of prepubescent children engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

On March 1, 2005, the defendant, using the internet, offered to trade child pornography with an undercover agent. At the time, the defendant was operating a file server on his computer which contained child pornography. During the internet conversation with the undercover agent, the defendant stated that if the undercover agent could send him a video file of "pre rape," the defendant would grant the undercover agent access to the file server he was operating, thus allowing the

undercover agent to download any of the child pornography files the defendant possessed on his file server.

Petix' advisory sentencing range is between 210 and 240 months imprisonment.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Laurie J. Bennett , Special Agent in Charge.

Sentencing for Petix is scheduled for October 25, 2006, at 2:30 p.m.